GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
CORRUPTION IN IMMIGRATION OFFICES
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding corruption in the immigration Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check corrupt practices in the Immigration Offices?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Complaints are thoroughly investigated and action initiated against the officials found guilty. In seven cases, CBI investigations are still going on, six cases are at prosecution stage and in five cases, Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the accused officials.

(d) : In order to bring in greater accountability and responsibility in field-level posts, Government has recently upgraded the posts of Protectors of Emigrants. Further, in order to render the emigration process more transparent, accountable and user-friendly, the POE offices are being computerized. Various measures to streamline the emigration process to make it simple and transparent, including amendment to the Emigration Act 1983, increasing the number of countries for which emigration clearance is not required from 53 to 173, exempting persons with educational qualification of 10th class and above from the requirement of ECR clearance and periodic vigilance audit, have been initiated.